



Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauā.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter



Friday, June 27, 2008

Vol. III, No. 26

In This Issue:

EAC Report
Pg. 2

**ASG tightens
up on FY08
spending**
Pg. 2

**Governor
explains Fiber
Optic Cable
Ownership**
Pg. 3

**First ever
Samoa
Studies BA
Program**
Pg. 3

**Governor to
address Joint
Fono Session
on July 14th**
Pg. 4

**CRAG helping
to protect
American
Samoa's Coral
Reefs**
Pg. 6

**Historical Notes
& much, much
more...**

*For additional
news,
information
and much,
much more
about your
government,
visit the
ASG Website
at
[http://www.
americansamoa.
gov](http://www.americansamoa.gov)*

Governor Togiola Tulafono receives first copy of EAC report listing 'do-able' projects

The Economic Advisory Council has submitted to Governor Togiola Tulafono its first report entitled "A Focused Collaborative Approach to Economic Development."

The introduction reads: "As part of the 2002 private sector survey studied by the Council members, business leaders were asked what sort of industries or new directions they believed were good fits for American Samoa. They were specifically asked their opinion on the recommendations made in 2002 by the American Samoa Economic Advisory Commission, which identified five promising sectors: tourism, light manufacturing, information technology/call centers, agriculture and fisheries."

The EAC focuses on many of these same industries, but the difference between the 2002 private sector survey and the Council, is focuses on action that can be taken in both the the public and private sectors

to produce effective, positive results for the American Samoan economy.

"American Samoa's small size requires a focused approach instead of trying to pursue all possible avenues for economic diversification," the report states. "In this spirit, the Council committees recommended only a few projects, but those projects were found to be 'do-able' in the short term, to produce long term results."

For Agriculture and Fisheries, the EAC recommends that priority projects include: securing funding sources for larger alia boats and developing an animal feed operation (feed mill).

The work of the Agriculture and Fisheries Committee focused on developing action plans for three specific categories: Revitalizing Agriculture, Upgrading Fisheries Capacity, and Canne

In revitalizing agriculture, the report recommends revitalizing

the agriculture plan with focus on making agriculture an important sector of the territory's economy. The report outlines strategies for the successful implementation of the plan.

As for upgrading fisheries capacity, the EAC recommends improvements in the operating arena of the local fishing industry by providing adequate financing, infrastructure and on-shore support facilities and, increasing the capability to market and sell fish in off-shore markets, as well as locally to include the school lunch program.

In the long term, the Council also recommends more financing for fishing, including loan programs for bigger boats and equipment. In addition, more support is recommended for aquaculture development.

For Manufacturing, Industry, and Ship Repair, priority projects listed by EAC include:

(Continued on page 2)

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104. 7

Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

EAC Report...continued from page 1

developing a shell building for manufacturing incubator, identifying joint manufacturing ventures, and developing the Malaloa area marina and upgrading marine facilities.

In the area of manufacturing, the EAC suggests attracting foreign capital, technology, management and marketing expertise for joint-venture, and supplying suitable public land and infrastructure for industrial development.

The EAC states that developing the economy in the territory means utilizing the limited resources to generate more local revenues and one way to do this is through the development of primary industries.

The EAC points out that a unique program underway in the American Samoa Government involves the development of 'micro-industries' which is a program that focuses on export-oriented and solely American Samoan owned and operated businesses.

Given examples of projects in pre-planning and proposal stages for 'micro-industries' include a slaughterhouse operation, cardboard manufacturing, watch assembly, fishhook factory, rum distillery, brewery, and a shoe manufacturing/repair shop. (The projects are being spearheaded by the Governor's Office and the Department of Commerce).

For Workforce, Education, and Technology, the EAC states that priority projects should include establishing a unified Institute of Trades and Technology, and re-establishing the American Samoa Board of Education.

The EAC referred to the recently released *Cannery Closure Impact Study* where economist Malcolm McPhee provides an excellent description of the role education and technology play in economic development:

"Education and technology have been known for a long time to have a great influence on economic growth. However, there was never a very clear idea of how it worked or how to account for or measure it. Previously, economic development was viewed in a highly physical sense as in the use of land, labor and capital and the production of goods. Typically, the process was governed by competition, comparative advantage, and diminishing returns, all of which remain important. Increasingly, however, economists are coming to realize that while these concepts apply reasonably well to the production of goods, they apply much less well to the fastest growing sectors of the economy, which are technology and knowledge-based activities.

The new technology and knowledge-based activities defied older notions of diminishing returns. It became clear that innovation could provide what appeared to be almost unlimited growth potential!"

The EAC wrote, "Knowledge makes growth possible. Without a doubt, the Territory's greatest strength is its only resource, the human resources; education and workforce development must include the development of trades education, and knowledge based activities."

The goal of the Workforce, Education and Technology (WET) committee action plan is to develop establish an integrated technical institution involving the Workforce Development Commission (WDC), Department of Education (DOE), American Samoa Community College (ASCC) and the private sector, focusing on developing specific knowledge of and skills in the trades, technicians, engineers and businesses.

For Environment, Tourism, Recycling, and Energy, the EAC has believes that priority projects should include developing village-based environmental management programs, supporting the new American Samoa Tourism Authority, developing policies for incentives to using 'green technologies,' and developing regional recycling center(s).

ASG to tighten up on spending for the rest of FY08

Although he has lifted to freeze on hiring, increments, and promotions, Governor Togiola Tulafono says the American Samoa Government will tighten up on its spending to ensure that expenditures are covered for the remaining months of fiscal year 2008.

According to the Governor, only a few positions need to be filled. He added that aside from the pay hikes for the reclassification of teachers, another reason why spending will be tightened is to free up funds to cover the pay raises for the 117 employees who were affected under the new minimum wage increase for government workers which went into effect on May 25.

Aside from the aforementioned, the salaries for another 134 employees have been adjusted to reflect a higher pay grade than their counterparts being paid on the minimum wage level.

No additional gas coupons for any ASG department or agency

Governor Togiola Tulafono says that he will not approve requests from any department or agency of the American Samoa Government for additional gas coupons for their vehicles. Togiola has made this clear to all ASG directors.

The Governor said during his weekend radio program that one of the areas where the government has implemented strict compliance is the use of gasoline coupons, which are issued in monthly allotments for ASG department vehicles.

Togiola explained that two years ago, when the budget for the current fiscal year was being put together, the price of oil was not where it is today, at more than \$130 a barrel. Since then, the price of gas/fuel has increased by four-fold.

According to the Governor, the price of gasoline and fuel are at an all time high and there just isn't enough money to cover this expense.

He said the only way to save money is to implement a strict policy that must be followed, meaning that government employees need to assist in cost saving measures by limiting the use of ASG vehicles for government business only, and cut out any unnecessary driving.

Governor Togiola explains that AS only has one-third ownership of fiber optic cable

Governor Togiola Tulafono has made it clear that the American Samoa Government does not have sole ownership of the highly anticipated undersea fiber optic cable expected to be in operation in early 2009 but instead, ASG only has one-third ownership.

The Governor explained that ASG's share in the project was only \$9 million and any profits will have to be split amongst the parties involved, ASG included.

In addition to ASG, the other parties involved in the Pacific Rim fiber optic cable deal are Telecom New Zealand (TNZ), Merchant Capital, an investment and merchant banking company based in Alabama, and Elandia Incorporated, the parent company of Blue Sky Communications.

Togiola explained that during initial talks about cable connection, the estimated dollar amount to make it happen was quoted at \$18-\$20 million and in the end, according to the Governor, the total price would probably have cost around \$30 million.

However, ASG offered \$9 million for one-third ownership to the other parties and the deal was accepted, and an agreement has already been signed.

Togiola said that ASG will not pay more than \$9 million for the fiber optic cable. To date, the government has already secured payment for \$6 million of its \$9 million commitment. (\$3 million approved by the Fono and another \$3 million allocated under Capital Improvement Projects).

The Governor said that when the cable is up and running, anyone or any country that wants to be connected can do so, and the money will go directly to the parties involved.

The cable will be landed in Fogagogo and connected to the Blue Sky Communications site in Ili'ili which will be used as the main center for distribution to the government, private sector, and others.

There have been discussions about the possibility of neighboring Samoa being hooked up to the cable but nothing is yet final.

Thirty teachers enrolled in first ever BA program in Samoan studies

Approximately thirty local teachers are enrolled in the two-year BA program in Samoan studies that was launched in the Governor's Office on June 12. The program is possible through a partnership between the American Samoa Government and the National University of Samoa.

The launching of the program included the presence of NUS administrators Fonoti Dr. Lafita'i I. Fuata'i, director of center for Samoan Studies, Professor Le'apai Lau Asofou Soo, deputy vice chancellor, and Seve Folototo Seve, NUS financial services director.

An ecstatic Governor Togiola Tulafono, who described the launching as one of his happiest and most satisfying days as Governor, said that the program is part of the government's action plan to preserve the Samoan culture and language, which is perhaps the most important goal of this administration.

According to Togiola, the current administration has been working on this project since he spoke of promoting efforts to preserve the culture during Flag Day last year. The original plan was to call a general assembly of leaders – traditional, political, religious, and academic – to review a draft policy or road map regarding cultural preservation.

However, this didn't pan out as Togiola unexpectedly had to undergo treatment off-island. The degree program was to be launched afterwards but instead, has become the first step.

The Governor believes that training teachers in culture and language as the first step to cultural preservation is vital because the classrooms have been identified as the most important battleground in the fight for preservation.

He said that preservation measures have been promised time and time again but actions have always fallen short of the expressed goals. But with the new program underway, it's time to take action and do it properly, with dedication and resolve.

Togiola said that culture is no longer being practiced on a daily basis in many villages and in most family settings, and added that preservation efforts will be taken to the schools to ensure that every child that passes through will have learned and appreciated our culture before they leave school and go out into the world.

He added that the hope of saving the Samoan culture is the challenge of teachers and there is absolutely no room for failure because this means that the space between our true culture and the way we live will become bigger and the end result will be the loss of our way of life as passed down from our parents.

According to the Governor, the two-year program is well crafted but he suggests adding a course in American Samoa history and a teacher skills course.

He said he is confident in the program because NUS is fully committed to saving the Samoan culture. Togiola thanked NUS for working with ASG to launch the program and said that his goal is to have all Samoan language and culture teachers in the DOE system complete the program. (Currently, DOE requires a grade in Samoan studies from everyone graduating high school).

Togiola said that he will work with DHR director Mageo Malu on a solution to address concerns voiced by teachers that their BA in Samoan Studies will not be accepted by the Department of Human Resources (for determination of pay).

With regards to compensation, Togiola has already signed into law the teacher reclassification bill and since teaching Samoan culture and language is a rare skill, it should be classified as a 'hard to fill' position.

According to the Governor, their plans call for another class to follow next year.

Governor to address joint session when Fono reconvenes next month

Governor Togiola Tulafono has accepted an invitation to address the Fono's joint session when the local Legislature reconvenes for the 4th regular session on July 14.

(Under local law, the Governor is mandated to address the opening of the Fono on the second Monday in January only, meaning he is not obligated to address the Legislature throughout the year unless there are issues for which the Fono seeks an explanation from the Chief Executive).

The Fono leadership wants the Governor to address the joint session to address any pressing measures the Administration may need the Fono to look at during the regular session. Fono leaders believe that the Administration needs to submit to the Fono, sooner than later, any proposed bills that require legislative consideration so there is enough time to discuss them.

Some of the proposed measures expected to be submitted and reviewed during the upcoming regular session is the appropriation of \$1 million to be allocated from the \$20-million-dollar loan from the ASG Employees' Retirement Fund, to buy school buses for the local Department of Education.

(Two days ago, the Governor announced that 10 new school buses have been ordered for DOE. The order includes four 84-passenger buses that will be here in time for the hosting of the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts on July 20th. The other six buses are smaller and will arrive by the start of the new school year).

Also on the list of discussions for the Fono is the fiscal year 2009 budget which begins on Oct. 1, 2008.

Other topics will also be addressed, including the lack of ocean transportation for the Manu'a Islands. The MV Sili is currently dry docked and the Governor has contracted the Fotu o Samoa from the independent state to carry much needed supplies and cargo, as well as passengers to Manu'a.

(Meanwhile, the Governor has requested the Department of Port Administration to thoroughly prepare the Manu'atele III to provide service to the Manu'a Islands. According to the Governor, if the Manu'atele III is sea worthy, and is approved to sail to Manu'a, then the boat will be scheduled to travel there on a regular basis).

Lastly, the Fono's agenda will likely include the issue of flooding in the Fagaima and Ottoville areas, an issue that has been raised – more than once – by the head of the local Catholic Church, Bishop Vaopunimatagi John Quinn Weitzel.

The Department of Public Works is being requested by the Governor to assess how best to address this problem.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On June 21, 1900, the American flag was raised at Leone, Tutuila, and Naval Station Commandant Benjamin F. Tilley wrote that "the natives of Leone have been very anxious to have a flag and show great interest in the new government."

On June 21, 1919, when a New Zealand Royal Commission arrived in Apia to investigate the influenza pandemic, an article in the *Samoa Times* reported that "the official death count was set at 7,542 out of a population of 30,636," or 24.62 per cent of the population.

On June 21, 1943, the U.S. Navy Seabees' "Second Construction Battalion boarded the U.S.S. Couch and departed from Uvea, Wallis Islands at 1700" for duty in American Samoa.

On June 23, 1954, German-born American sailor William Willis, age 61, set sail from Callao, Peru for Australia via Samoa, aboard his balsa log raft *The Seven Little Sisters*. (The name referred to the seven logs). He was accompanied by his parrot "Eekie" and his cat "Meekie."

On June 26, 1938, Captain Edward William Hanson took office as American Samoa's 26th naval governor.

On June 26, 1945, the "BREAKDOWN OF PERSONNEL ALLOWANCES BY FUNCTIONAL COMPONENTS U.S. NAVAL STATION TUTUILA AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SAMOA" was as follows: "ADMINISTRATION: Nine (9) U.S. Navy Officers and fifty (50) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men; HARBOR CONTROL & DEFENSE: One (1) U.S. Navy Officer and five (5) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men; COMMUNICATIONS: Three (3) U.S. Navy Officers and thirty-seven (37) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men, and one (1) Fita Fita; SUPPLY: Six (6) U.S. Navy Officers and thirty-six (36) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men; SHIP REPAIR: Two (2) U.S. Navy Officers, fifty (50) U.S. Enlisted Navy [sic] Men, and eight (8) Fita Fitas; MEDICAL: Fifteen U.S. Navy Officers and forty-one (41) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men; AVIATION: Eleven (11) U.S. Navy Officers, seventy-five U.S. Navy Enlisted Men, and six (6) Fita Fitas, including the Upolu Detachment of Naval Air Facility Tutuila consisting of one (1) U.S. Navy Officer and ten (10) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men; ORDNANCE: One (1) U.S. Navy Officer and one (1) U.S. Navy Enlisted Man; CONSTRUCTION & PUBLIC WORKS: Two (2) U.S. Navy Officers (Including Public Works Officer and Assistant Public Works Officer for Government of American Samoa), and thirty-nine (39) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men; MINECRAFT & ANTI-SUBMARINE VESSELS: (Three (3) U.S. Navy Officers and twenty-four U.S. Navy Enlisted Men (One Vessel); SERVICE VESSELS: Five (5) U.S. Navy Officers and twenty-nine (29) U.S. Navy Enlisted Men (One Vessel); FITA FITA GUARD & BAND: In accordance with reference (f), the Fita Fita allowance is limited to one hundred forty-two (142). A complete distribution of the Fita Fitas among the various functional components is not available at this headquarters."

On June 27, 1887, William Cox, the gunner from Hawaiian King Kalakaua's ship *Kaimiloa*, and three other crew members were arrested for mutiny by Apia's Municipal Magistrate, Otto Martin.

EAC says canneries development is a goal in upgrading fisheries development capacity

The Governor's Economic Advisory Council is recommending that assistance be provided in the development of local canneries in American Samoa, including efforts to reduce or eliminate the minimum wage increases.

In its first report submitted to Governor Togiola Tulafono, the EAC categorizes the canneries under fisheries development and states that the development of the canneries is one of the goals in upgrading the development of the fishing industry.

The other goal is to continue to support efforts that address the concerns of the canneries regarding issues like salaries and taxes.

According to the EAC, the canneries are a cornerstone of the American Samoan economy and improving business opportunities for the canneries will have a positive effect throughout the economy.

Strategies for achieving this goal include increased efforts to eliminate or reduce minimum wage increases and supporting a collaborative program between the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), the American Samoa Government (ASG), and the canneries to offset the costs of utility and fuel, including research into renewable energy sources.

The timeframe for this to be carried out is 6 months.

Work recommended to be carried out between 6-12 months includes:

- Reforming immigration policies to ease the complicated process of recruiting and retaining cannery workers by assigning immigration officers specifically for the canneries;

- Reforming immigration policy regarding contracted workers – visa should be valid for the contract time, not for only one year;

- Reforming the policies and procedures of the Department of Health for health programs for cannery workers;

Other work recommended to be completed within one to two years includes:

- Collaborating with the ASG workforce development, the Department of Commerce, and the American Samoa Community College to develop programs to recruit, train, and retain skilled workers;

- Increasing efforts to recruit workers skilled in trades; and

- Establishing a scholarship program for students trained at the National Institute in Samoa.

As a part of the action plan development process, the EAC developed an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to improving agriculture, fisheries and cannery activities in American Samoa.

The Economic Advisory Council is composed of individuals that were appointed by the Governor from members of the local community and cabinet members.

Community members include: Pete Galea'i, Leilua Stevenson, Wallace Thompson, Vince Haleck, Ben Sola'ita, Taulapapa William Sword, Sione Kava, Robin Dalton, Fiti Sunia, Taase Amosa, Laulagia Tuala, Ethan Lake, Robert Urhle, Dean Hudson, David Robinson, Andy Forsgren, Mary Anderson, Tom Drabble, Poe Mageo, Florence Saulo, Gary Ayre, Brian Glass, Lauvao Haleck, Henry Sesepasara, and Leusoga Bill Emmsley.

Cabinet members, who are non-voting council members are: Mageo Ieti, Apefai Taifane, Matagi Ray McMoore, Aleki Sene Sr., Michael Keyser, Dr. Claire Poumele, Dr. Seth Galea'i, and Fanuatele Dr. Toafa Vaiaga'e.

CRAG working hard to help protect American Samoa's coral reefs

In addition to their recently launched "Reef Watchers" program which includes volunteers who want to help protect the environment through community clean-up efforts, the Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) also has several other upcoming projects aimed at protecting American Samoa's coral reefs.

The list of projects includes "International Year of the Reef" activities for the upcoming Festival of Pacific Arts, one of which includes the recently unveiled aiga bus painted with a mural of coral reefs and underwater sea life which will be used to transport people during the Festival next month.

(The International Year of the Reef was declared a decade ago in 1997. The first campaign was initiated in response to the increasing threats and loss of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, like mangroves and sea grasses).

Other upcoming CRAG projects include the development of the Territorial Marine Science Center, conducting a Population Pressure Summit, territorial wide coastal clean ups, socio-economic monitoring training, a recycling campaign, community based fisheries management program capacity building workshops, a marine protected area network and a bio-geographic assessment to support it, and legislation to protect locally rare large marine fish species like sharks and humphead wrasse.

CRAG is a collaboration of five different agencies which include the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, the Department of Commerce, the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, the American Samoa Community College, and the National Park of American Samoa.

Member agencies work together by mutual consensus to manage coral reefs in the territory, and the group plans and implements strategies to address various areas of coral reef protection in American Samoa, from education and outreach to scientific studies and monitoring.

CRAG has identified four main threats to American Samoa's coral reefs as land based source of pollution, fishing pressure, global climate change, and population pressure.

These threats, according to CRAG, are mitigated by local action strategies, which is a targeted set of multi-agency interventions and actions aimed at protecting local coral reefs. According to CRAG, each strategy is the result of a continuing process incorporation input from territorial agencies, non-profit groups, stakeholders, and federal agency partners.

Strategies continue to evolve and develop as new information arises.

CRAG has accomplished a lot since its formation. Over the years, CRAG has supported legislation to ban plastic bags in the territory, in addition to the island wide motor oil recycling program.

Several weeks ago, the group even coordinated the painting of a coral reef themed mural on the Executive Office Building in Utulei by world renowned marine life artist, Wyland.

CRAG members have participated in meetings to coordinate the environmental efforts of a Samoan archipelago Marine Protected Area Network, in addition to facilitating discussions between local government agencies and recycling providers to expand recycling opportunities and services.

American Samoa's Coral Reef Initiative is simple: Protect and conserve coral reefs for the benefit of the people of American Samoa, the United States, and the rest of the world.

More information about CRAG and their work can be obtained by calling 633-5155 or logging on to: <http://doc.asg.as/CRAG>

CRAG says population growth is a threat to the territory

The Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) says that one of the major threats facing the future of the territory is "Too Many People on Too Little Land," or "To'atele Tagata as La'ititi le Laualeele."

Department of Commerce director Faleseu Eliu Paopao explained, "There is not a man, woman, or child in American Samoa that will escape the impact of population growth if the problem is left unchecked." This will be especially true for Tutuila, which houses 96% of the territory's population despite having only 30% of habitable land. (DOC statistics reveal that the population in American Samoa increased from less than 10,000 to 57,291 over the past century, between 1900 and 2000). In July 2007, the estimated population stood at 65,029 and at the same time, a major shift in population location from east to west occurred, with more than 40% of the population now residing in the Tafuna Plains (Tualauta County).

At the current rates of growth, in about five years, there will be an increase of 7,000 more people, 1,500 more houses, and 2,000 more automobiles. Chief Statistician Vai Filiga asks, "Can you imagine what traffic will be like here with 2,000 more cars on a two-lane road that is already heavily congested?" He added, "Imagine the impact that 14,000 more people will cause the island during the next decade."

A significant problem in the immediate future centers around the issue of Population Momentum which is the childbearing potential that will impact future growth as the population under 18 will likely grow up and have families of their own.

In American Samoa, 40% of the population is under 15 years old and this means that while measures can be taken to reduce population growth, the population will most likely continue to increase.

And as the population grows on this small island, pressures on the environment, including social and economic resources are inevitable. The strain imposed on all resources due to the growth and density of human population is called Population Pressure, which has been recognized by CRAG as the root cause of many of the other key threats to American Samoa's coral reefs, including fisheries management, climate change, and land-based pollution.

Population pressure was first addressed in the territory in May 2000 when the late Governor Tauese Sunia's Task Force on Population Growth, chaired by then Lt. Governor Togiola Tulafono met with a number of key stakeholders to address the issue.

The Task Force drafted and presented to the Governor and Fono a report called "Impacts of Rapid Population Growth in American Samoa: A Call for Action," in which several areas of concern for population pressures were highlighted including: culture, economy, infrastructure and land use, education, social and medical services, and the environment, not the least of which included the coral reefs. (A copy of the report is available on-line at <http://doc.asg.as/crag/population/>).

With the population problem literally growing on a yearly basis, CRAG applied for funding to develop a Local Action Strategy (LAS) specific to the issue of Population Pressure. A LAS identifies and implements plans of action to reduce key threats to coral reef systems.

Local consultant Maggie Keane of Ina'ilau a Tama'ita'i Inc., was contracted to facilitate the development and implementation phases of the Population Pressure LAS, in conjunction with a Population Pressure LAS working group. Employing many aspects of the 2000 report as a model, the Population Pressure LAS working group developed a vision statement and plans of action that fell into five main categories: policy, education, outreach, communication, and data collection and management.

The action plans key in on turning the vision to facilitate a balance of population growth with available human and natural resources to create a high quality of life into reality. The 5 "C's" for sustainable change – commitment, consistency, continuity, connectivity, and credibility – were used as tools to propel the LAS forward. To achieve commitment, otherwise known as a vested 'buy-in,' key stakeholders were asked to address the Population Pressure issue and consider implementing the proposed plan of action. A series of events, beginning with a focus group in September 2007, was implemented and in May 2008, two focus groups on 'Immigration' and 'Policy in the Making' were conducted as well as a full day mini-summit on "Population, Reproductive Health and Education."

The mini-summit included the health and science team from the Department of Education's Office of Curriculum and Instruction, the Maternal and Child Health Program team from the Department of Health, the CEO and Family Planning Clinic team from the LBJ Medical Center, and representatives from the CNR program at the American Samoa Community College.

Two important by-products of the mini-summit were the initial development of a framework for establishing a national health policy, and the development of an on-line population pressure communication system to encourage interaction between agencies.

A key feature is the PowerPoint presentation "Population Dynamics in American Samoa" which was developed by the LAS working group. Population dynamics studies how the population in a community changes over time.

The three main components for this change are births, deaths, and migration. Population growth is determined by the number of births minus deaths, plus or minus net migration. Effective, affordable, easily available contraception methods, increased family planning, and strict immigration policies are significant plans of action in reducing population growth.

The primary goal of the Population Pressure LAS is to establish a comprehensive, integrated Population Pressure Commission that will address population growth.

A mini-summit for the Fono is being planned for August and a territorial-wide Summit on Population is scheduled for later this year on September 24-25 at the Convention Center in Utulei. This work will continue until it is ready to be submitted to the Governor and the Fono for enactment into law, with the key date being September 2008.

EAC offers recommendations for business licensing procedure

The Economic Advisory Council's report on policy reform submitted to Governor Togiola Tulafono states that business licensing is an area of concern, and one of the major problems recognized by the private sector is that the process by which a business license application is reviewed and approved or disapproved is lengthy and cumbersome.

"This may discourage an applicant from establishing a small business, and possibly pose a threat to the individual's livelihood and income," the EAC pointed out.

The average time for processing a business license in the territory is said to be at least six months and this, according to the Council, cannot compete with other countries around the world where anything more than one week (provided all documents are in order) would be deemed poor service.

The EAC says that it could take up to six months for new investors to navigate the cumbersome business license application process, assuming that the investors have employed a competent person to guide them through the complex process.

"The concept of policy reform can be both simple and difficult," the EAC noted. "In its simple format, policy reform may entail no more than a simplification of procedures designed to make doing business with the American Samoa Government easier."

For the purposes of its report on policy reform, the EAC is assuming the role of non-US overseas investors who intend to establish a manufacturing operation in the territory to service the US market. To ensure a balanced view of each issue, substantial discussions have been held with various government departments and their comments have been incorporated in the recommendations voiced by the EAC.

With regards to business licensing, the EAC points out that the current practice by ASG, as required by law, is that a license be obtained for any and all activity added to an already established business. This means that a business is unable to operate more than one business under the same corporation, without obtaining a further business license. One example is where an individual required a separate license to run a computer repair operation and a sewing machine repair operation.

The EAC proposes that this provision be removed or an amendment be made to the statute, because "it only makes the process longer and frustrating for both ASG and the applicant."

In reality, according to the EAC, the process should be very simple, provided an investor is prepared to abide by the law and commit capital to establish a business.

"It is acknowledged that this concept does not extend to more regulated industries such as telecommunications, insurance and banking where industry specific licenses are required," the EAC points out. (The Territorial Planning Commission (TPC) is the entity that gives the final call on a business license application before it is forwarded to the Governor for approval/disapproval. Prior to the TPC, the application is required to obtain approvals and signatures from seven other agencies).

The EAC suggests that TPC statutes and rules be revisited to help alleviate the business licensing process and ensure fairness in decisions made.

The Council noted that the Department of Commerce was recently awarded a Technical Assistant Grant by the U.S. Department of Interior to set up a "One-Stop Shop" type of system for permitting and business licensing in American Samoa.

"The Council is in full support of this effort and wishes that the needs of the private sector be considered and met when designing this project," the report says. "This 'One-Stop Shop' system will ease up the permitting and business licensing process, and will encourage entrepreneurs and outside investors to establish and conduct business in the Territory. This will most definitely be beneficial to the local economy."

The report states that during discussions held with the Department of Commerce, the DOC generally supported the recommendations made by the EAC and the Council was delighted to hear that the "One-Stop Shop" concept remains a focus of DOC moving forward.

The procurement process for this project has started and will be carried out in two phases. The first phase will be the e-permitting and computerizing of basic information, while the second part will be connecting all involved agencies.

For business license applications, the Council recommends revising the existing TPC Statutes and Rules with a strong view to simplification, and ensuring that only one agency is required to approve an application or at most, two agencies where special requirements exist (e.g. Department of Health, in the case of food vendors).

The EAC also recommends that there be one business license in instances where multiple but similar operations exist, (e.g., only one license should be issued for a retailer, not separate licenses depending on what is being retailed), and that a maximum acceptable time frame is established for completing the process and implementing the required change to ensure this standard is met. The recommended standard is one week, to be reduced to one day over time.

Lastly, the Council recommends pursuing the One-Stop Shop concept as a matter of urgency.

Email your Tapuitema articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov))

EAC says immigration reform should include streamlining renewal process and revising existing policy

The Economic Advisory Council in its report on policy reform submitted to Governor Togiola Tulafono is recommending that immigration reform include streamlining the immigration renewal process as well as revising existing immigration policy.

“Attracting new and possibly foreign investment dollars will necessitate a review of our current immigration practices to see how new investors in our community can cope with a process that will be proactive in assisting to employ the expatriate or guest workers who may be needed,” the report says.

The Council has made it clear that the intent of any immigration reform should not favor expatriate workers over American Samoan workers, and existing policy that requires evidence that the role could not be filled from existing American Samoan resources as part of an entry permit application is encouraged and should be retained.

The EAC says there needs to be a method of matching the immigration term with the term of the asset invested. One suggestion is to provide “investment entry permits” that will allow the investor to remain in the territory for either the term of the employment contract or the perceived term of the investment (depending on the level of the investment), on the proviso that the applicant maintains a clean criminal record.

This and other areas where improvement is needed in the immigration process was detailed in the 2006 American Samoa Private Sector Assessment prepared by the Department of The Interior Office of Insular Affairs and the Council believes that these areas are still those most in need of urgent attention.

This includes the Attorney General delegating the administrative task of reviewing applications to an administrator within the Immigration Office to expeditiously move applications forward, provided all required criteria are met.

Also, work permission should be granted for 2 or 3 years instead of the current 1-year practice as this is a major issue for expatriates who often need to bring families with them, yet can obtain no more than a one year work permit.

“Even if 2–3 year entry permits are made available, the process of obtaining a renewal should be simplified,” the report says. “The existing process of obtaining a renewal is cumbersome, time consuming, and necessitates time off work and school to attend hearings and renewal arrangements.”

The report further states that, provided the applicant has a clean criminal record and intends working for the same corporation, renewal should be a simple matter and should extend to the term of the employment contract. Clearly, the community’s need for economic development must be addressed in a way to be sensitive to our culture and laws and therefore, the Council recommends working towards immigration processes that are fair, transparent, and efficient.

Another aspect of immigration policy, according to the report, should be to review our educational system to see what is being done to promote vocational education to have more American Samoans skilled in the trades like electricians, plumbers, diesel mechanics, refrigeration technicians and other trades which the local business community is currently employing from outside the territory.

The reports says that the existing Guest Worker program is a step in the right direction; however, based on discussions with both canneries, it does not appear to have solved the problem, with both canneries experiencing difficulty in attracting labor.

The EAC is recommending that the immigration renewal process be streamlined by:

- Delegating the task of renewal applications and simplifying the process by excluding involvement of senior immigration officials other than for more complex issues.
- Assigning a legal/immigration specialist to the immigration board to support the board.
- Simplifying the process. The existing process is very detailed and requires multiple visits to the immigration office and provided all documentation is in order, this should not be necessary.
- Reviewing the existing sponsorship program. Currently it is seen as an income generating exercise for many. (Employees should have more ability to sponsor workers).
- If an immigrant has a steady job and a clean police record, then renewal should be a simple process.

The EAC is also calling for a revision to the existing Immigration Policy. In its report, the Council states that entry permit terms that are reflective of the life of the asset invested should be pursued for investors who are committing capital for the benefit of the economy of American Samoa. For example, a building company under a specific contract should have an entry permit for the life of the contract, whereas a manufacturing investor that is building a factory should receive a longer term entry permit, say 5–10 years.

Furthermore, for contract employees, the entry permit should reflect the term of their contracts (and be sponsored by the employer). In both instances, according to the EAC, a process could be established where an annual confirmation certificate is provided which states that the conditions of entry remain and that a clean police record is held. If that is the case, then the file is noted with no need for renewal to occur. If that is not the case, the immigration status could be revoked.

Tax reform addressed by EAC in report submitted to Governor Togiola

The issue of tax reform is being addressed by the Economic Advisory Council in its report on policy reform submitted to Governor Togiola Tulafono. The report was prepared following meetings held with Tax Office representatives and the ASG Treasurer.

The report says that the Tax Office supports tax reform but it also expressed concerns regarding the change process and the ability of the existing Tax Office employees' structure to police any changes. These concerns stem in part from the frustrations experienced with policing the existing tax code. "There is little doubt that any tax reform that is beneficial to foreign investment will result in reduced taxation revenue," the report says. The EAC believes that such a reduction will be temporary in nature, as it will be off-set in due course by increased investment resulting in increased tax revenue, even though there will no doubt be a dip in revenue that will need to be managed or financed. According to the report, the tax revenue for 2007 was stronger than recent years and the Tax Office is doing all it can to maximize tax collection in the future to help fund a struggling government. Therefore, the Council believes that any proposed reduction in revenue will not be welcome and would need to be carefully managed. "This should also be considered in light of the current economic climate," the EAC wrote. As minimum wage hikes move forward, canneries continue to struggle to recruit employees and threaten to leave the territory, and the US economy enters a recession. "The likelihood that tax revenues will reduce over the ensuing years as businesses struggle to maintain previous levels of profitability is real," the report says.

According to the EAC, there was reasonable support from Tax Office for a gradual reduction in the top corporate tax rate and at the moment, only a handful of companies are paying the top corporate tax rate of 44%; however, the tax paid by these companies is approximately \$10 million, compared to approximately \$20 million from other forms of taxation including IET. As a result, these corporations are paying a disproportionate contribution. The \$10 million paid by the few includes tax paid at the lower scales and it is estimated that a reduction in the top corporate tax rate from 44% to 35% for example, may only result in a reduction in tax paid of \$1.5-\$2.5million. (Specific details of the sources of tax revenue were sought from the Tax Office but were not provided due to disclosure issues. Furthermore, a discussion was held around privatization as a way to fund any potential shortfall in tax collection but the Tax Office was not comfortable with discussing the issue).

In addition, they did not want to see tax treaties form part of the report as the USA has spent years negotiating its existing treaties, and they were not comfortable with the territory being in a position to unilaterally adopt similar treaties.

The EAC has issued some recommendations for tax reform, one of which is an initial reduction in the corporate tax rates from 44% to perhaps 35%, with a subsequent review to progressively reduce them further in possibly 3-4 years when the impact of the initial reduction is known. The Council believes that the corporate tax rate should more closely mirror that of personal taxpayers as well as being competitive within the South Pacific region. This should entail a reduction in the corporate tax rate to below 30% with the EAC recommending 25% as a reasonable target. "This would ensure competitiveness as well as a reasonable rate by taxpayers in turn leading to improved tax ethics," the report says.

The report also recommends the removal of the unpopular dividend withholding tax as it is a double taxation being paid after payment of corporate taxes and it is not providing much revenue but is a major negative for foreign investment.

The Council also recommends the removal of the interest withholding tax, saying that it is not providing much revenue (if any) but it restricts the ability of non-US based corporations to raise money in a cost effective manner for the purposes of foreign investment here.

In addition, the EAC is also recommending the removal of the Tax Exemption Board. This includes cancellation of all existing exemptions provided, or a substantial revision of the tax exemption process. The Council acknowledges that exemption removals may need to be progressively introduced as some corporations are only able to remain competitive as a result of incentives currently in place; however, the Council finds that for this reason alone, the board should be disbanded as level playing fields should be encouraged at all times.

But should a revision of the tax exemption process be considered, the EAC says it should include extremely clear guidelines that must be met before an exemption is provided, such as:

- Required levels of investment or equity
- Required local employment levels
- A clearly defined and non-competitive market. This is essential to ensure that existing market players are not suddenly disadvantaged due to a new entrant with an attractive tax exemption.
- Clear evidence of economic benefit, or
- Clear evidence of an uneven playing field with the tax exemption request designed to rectify the anomaly.

Lastly, the Council believes that personal tax rates should be aligned to US tax rates at a maximum, possibly even lower. The Council understands the difficulty with this, as the US tax code is very complex and difficult to administer, which is probably the reason why the code was frozen in December 2000. Nevertheless, the American Samoan taxpayer is paying a rate higher than mainland USA as well as neighboring countries. According to the EAC, traditionally lower salary levels relate to lower taxation but this is not occurring in American Samoa at present. Ideally, a simplified tax code is adopted, similar to other Pacific Island countries; however, this has not been researched in any great detail in the preparation of this report, as it is deemed out of scope.

Saunoaga Kovana Togiola Tulafono

Tatalaina o le Porokalama Tikeri i le Aganu'u ma le Gagana

Iuni, 12, 2008

O le tasi lenei o aso sili ona faamalieloto i lo'u nofoa'i mai i le tofi Kovana. O le Aso ua amata aloa'ia ai le faatinoga o se tasi o sini o la'u nofoaiga, o le Puipuia o le Aganuu a Samoa.

I la'u tautalaga o le Aso o le Fu'a i le tausaga talu ai, sa 'ou ta'ua ai le fuafuaina o le puipuiga o le aganuu ma le gagana. Na amata mai ai i lena taimi ona tapena.

I le tausaga ua mavae, sa ou taaloina se aofia tele o ta'ita'i o le atunuu – ta'ita'i faaleaganuu, faalemalo, ma faalelotu faapea le mamalu o faiaoga. Sa ou sauni e folasia i o latou luma se ata faata'ita'i o se aiaiga ta'oto, se fa'afanua e savali ai le Puipuiga o Aganu'u. A e talu ai ona o se fa'alavelave fa'afuase'i na tupu ia te a'u ua le vave taunu'u ai lenei fa'amoemoe.

Sa fuafua le a'oga lenei mo faia'oga, e amata pe a uma ona fola le ata atoa o le taumafaiga, i luma o lena aofia a le atunuu. A ua lē ogatasi le futia ma le umele. Soia ia. Laa loa i le laasaga lea, sosoo mai ai ma le isi. E taunuu uma lava i le sini e tasi.

O faafitauli uma lava e to'ai mai, e moomia ona faamanino se'i malamalama le atunuu, ona faatoa togafitia ai lea. E lē toe manaomia se tala'iga faapena o mafuaga e tatau ai ona faasao le aganuu ma le gagana. Na iloa e ta'ita'i ua toafafā i malae. A o lea ua tatou molimauiina le tupu tele, tupu malosi o le faafitauli. Ua folafola soo taumafaiga e puipui. A ua tele tatou ia folafolaga. Lea la o le a faatino mo'i. A o le a fai lelei, ma fai sa'o. Fai foi ma le agaga tinoū ma le faamaoni.

Sa fau ma le faateete le ata lea ua amata nei ona faatino. Ou te tatalo o le a lagolagoina e le atunuu, aemaise le Fono Faitulafono, auā e lē manuia pe a tatou lē galulue faatasi.

Aisea ua faatāua ai nei a'oga soofaatasi (cohort)? O le ā lava le tāua o le a'oa'oina o faiaoga o le aganuu ma le gagana, ua ala ia ona fai ma laasaga muamua o le ala i le puipuiga o aganuu? Muamua, ona o potu a'oga o le malae tau muamua lena o le taua mo le puipuiga o aganuu. Ua tatou iloa uma ua lē o toe faatinoa le aganuu i aso fai pea i nuu ma aiga. O potu a'oga o le a fai ai le taua. O le a avea potu a'oga ma puna o le faiga sa'o o le aganuu.

Lua, e ui mai tamaiti uma i potu a'oga. O iina tatou te faia ai ia mautinoa e iloa ma mitamita le tama ma le teine i lana aganuu, a o lē i tuua aoga ma ulufale atu i le lalolagi tele. Latou te maua iinei le tali o fesili pei o ia: O ai a'u? O fea ou te sau ai? E faapefea ona 'ou fiafia e ola i lo'u atunuu? O le ā le taua o le mitamita i la'u lava aganuu, o lo'u tofi? A malamalama tupulaga i aganuu ma le faaagaina o le gagana, ona faigofie lea ona talia ma faaoga suiga. A oo foi ina latou tuua le soifuaga nei, ua iai se mea e tuu mo isi tupulaga e mulimuli mai. O le mea moni, e iai le āiā tatau o tupulaga lumana'i i le aganuu ma le gagana. O lo tatou tiute, faasao measina ia mo latou. O le laasaga muamua la lea – a'oa'oga faia'oga, ina ia latou a'oa'oga atu tupulaga.

Tolu, o potu a'oga o le a maua ai faia'oga ua uma ona tapena. Ioe, o le upu moni lena. O le faamoemoe mo le lavea'iina o aganuu o le lu'i lena mo outou, faia'oga. E matuā lē tatau ona outou to'ilalo pe faia'ina. Afai tou te lē mafaia le lu'i lenei, o le a oo ina va va mamao la tatou aganuu moni, ma le faiga o le soifuaga lea tatou te ola ai i aso ta'itasi. O le i'uga o le tōmaunu o lo tatou soifuaga faaSamoa, o le tofi na tuufaasolo mai e o tatou matua. E leai se isi o tatou e fia faafesaga'i ma se fanau ma fai i ai, malilie ua lē iloa lo outou avanoa e a'oa'oga ai le aganuu ona o lo matou faatamala.

O le ala lena ua tapena ai lenei a'oa'oga faapitoa mo faiaoga. Matou te manana'o ia atoatoa lo outou saunia e fai le galuega. Ua tasi la outou laa. O le tusia lea o o outou suafa mo le porokalama. Se'i tatou vaai la pe tutusa le lapopo'a o outou fatu ma le leotele o la outou ofo.

Ua ou vaai i le lisi o mataupu ia o le a saili ai outou tikeri i tausaga e lua. Ua manaia ma lelei. Masalo pe iai sina isi a'u fautuaga mulimuli ane. A ua ou talitonu nei, a outou mafaia mataupu ia, ma i'u lelei ma tikeri BA i le aganuu, ou te lē toe popole i le puipuiga o a tatou measina.

E faavae i se a lo'u talitonu e lelei le porokarama lea o le a saili ai outou tikeri? E faavae i lo'u talitonu, e naunau le Malo o Samoa e puipui le aganuu, ma o le porokarama lea na fafau e le Univesite o Samoa e faataunuu ai lena faamoemoe o lo latou Malo.

Ou te mana'o e toe faatulaga se isi vasega faapenei i le tausaga o muamua. A lelei ona outou āsaina le gāsū o le taeao, o le a faigofie foi mo latou.

E toatele a tatou faia'oga o aganuu ma le gagana i a tatou aoga. Ou te manao ia pasi uma latou i le porokarama lenei. A manuia lo outou taumafai, o le a tatou iloa mautinoa le mea e tatau ona fai i le lumana'i. Tatou te fia ta'u atu i le Fonoe i ai le faamoemoe lelei ma e mafai ona tini lena faamoemoe. A na fai e lava se tupe, semanū ua fai ni vasega e lua i le taimi e tasi. Auā afai na o le 30 faiaoga e pasi i le tausaga, o lona uiga e fia tausaga faato'a tofi le a'oga ma le faiaoga ua iai le tikeri i mataupu tau le aganuu. E lē gata i lena, a o le a i'u foi le isi fia selau tamaiti e le'i maua e latou le a'o'oga e tatau ona maua.

E lua mataupu ou te iloa o loo outou fia faafofoga i ai. Muamua, o le talia o lo outou tikeri e le Matagaluega o Tagata Faigaluega (Human Resources). Auā e oo mai nei, o loo faaletonu pea latou. E lē o se musu, a o le faigata ona fai se fua o le tikeri, ona e leai se isi tikeri faapea i se isi a'oga i Amerika. E lē musu le Matagaluega i le a'oa'oga o le gagana. Ua uma ona tuuina i le Faatonu, le Tofa a Mageo le lisi o mataupu ma le tusi o talaaga o le Univesite o Samoa i le Papa i Galagala. E iai se taimi ona ma iloilo lea ma le Tofa a Mageo i ala e to'amalie ai lenei mataupu.

O le isi a outou fesili o le totogi. Ou te lē faitio i lo outou fesiligia o lea itu. Afai o loo outou faalogologo pea i tala fou,

(Fa'aanau i le itulanu 12)

Tikeri i le Aganu'u ma le Gagana...*mai i le itulau 11*

ua outou iloa la ua uma ona pasi e le Fono le pili o le toe faatulagaina o totogi o faia'oga, ma ua ou sainia foi. Ou te talitonu e ioe le Tofa a Mageo, auā o ia sa faia'oga i tausaga e tele, o le a'oa'oina o le aganuu ma le gagana o se tomai mauagata (hard to fill), ma o le a faapena ona ia faatulagaina faia'oga e maua le tikeri lenei.

Mo le silafia e le atunuu, o le tasi lenei vaega o le fuafuaga a le Nofoaiga e siitia le tomai o tagata faigaluega a le Malo. Na amata i le tausaga ua mavae i le vasega foi faapenei e faia ma le Univesite o San Diego. O loo saili ai nei e i latou e to'a 30 le tikeri o le MA i mataupu tau faufautua (counseling).

O le talitonuga, ua moomia tele i le atina'e o le atunuu nisi ua a'oa'oina e fai ma fautua, aemaise foi a tatou a'oga.

Ua tuuina se tasi vaega o tupe mo le atina'e o faia'oga i Kolisi Tuufaatasi, ina ia faatino le tausaga tolu ma le fa o le a'oa'oga faafaia'oga.

Ua lata ona mae'a tapenaga a le Pule A'oga mo le porokalama foi faapenei, o le tikeri BA mo tausii tusi poo accountants. O le tasi lena o agavaa sili ona moomia e lo tatou Malo.

E sosoo mai tua porokalama mo le 'au faamalosii tulafono – pei o leoleo, tiute, ma ofisa o femalagaa'iga, atoa ma se porokalama MA i mataupu tau pule'aga o ofisa mo le lautele. I le taimi lenei i le tausaga o muamua, ua tataua ona tau fai galulue uma vasega e ono i le porokalama lenei o le siitia o agavaa o tagata faigaluega a lo tatou Malo.

E fia faai'u nai a'u upu i le faaalii o le agaga faafetai i la tatou pa'aga i lenei faamoemoe, o le Univesite o Samoa - Papa i Galagala.

Lau afioga i le Sui Fa'atonu - Porofesa Leapai Lau Asofou So'o, ma le Malaga mamalu, ua outou faafofoga i la'u faapulapulaga i le vasega lenei o faia'oga, aemaise le faafofoga a Amerika Samoa o loo maimoa mai maota ma laoa. Atonu ua outou silafia ai le t'aua o lenei faamoemoe ia i matou nei. Tatou te maea e tasi i le naunau e puipui la tatou aganuu, ma o se mataupu lenei e mafai, ma e matua tataua, ona tatou galulue faatasi ai. E le mafai ona uma le lu'itauina pea o la tatou aganuu e suiga malolosi mai fafo.

Ou te iloa e iai le 'au faitio. E le 'asa lena mea. O loo latou fesili poo ua soona faat'aua e a aganuu ma agaifanua – o mea e leai ni tino. O la'u tali: o le talitonuga faatemokarasi foi e leai sona tino, o le poto foi ma le atamai e leai ni tino. A e a na leai na mea, tatou te le saafi i le soifuaga manuia lea tatou te tiu ai nei. E leai ni tino, a o malosii na e tuleia le lalolagi. E mafai e la tatou aganuu, tusa pe leai se tino, ona fau lo tatou lumana'i ia fiafia ma toamalie. A mautu tupulaga i le iloa o aganuu, e o atu i lo latou foi lumana'i ma le loto tetele. Ua faamaonia i suesuega e fia ma fia, e faigofie ona a'oa'o le Igilisi e tamaiti e muamua ona atamamai i la latou lava gagana mo'i.

Ou te fia faafetai atu i lau Afioga le Pule o le Univesite o Samoa, mo lo outou lagolago mai i la matou taumafaiga e puipui aganuu, mo le agaga o le faasoa ua faaalii i lo outou finagalo malilie e aumai le porokalama i Amerika Samoa, atoa ma lo outou afifio mamao mai i lenei tatalaina aloa'ia.

Ou te talitonu o le a tutupu sootau'au pea o tatou tagata i ni seneturi se tele i le lumanai. O a outou foi taumafaiga e puipui le aganuu, e mafai ona lafoia mai ma pu'e atu lona ata iinei. Ma e le ave le moni o le talitonuga, i mataupu tau le aganuu, e tasi ta'ua.

Ou te tatalo i le Alii agalelei ia foa'i mai pea le iloa ma le poto e mafai ai ona tatou puipui le matagofie o le soifuaga ua Ia saunia mo i tatou. Afai e talii le uto i sisifo, ia faamamalu atu le Atua.

O la'u toe upu i faia'oga. Tuu mai atoa lo outou malosii e tali le lu'itau ua ta'oto nei i o tatou luma. Faitau so tatou 'ai. 'Aua le faatali se'i maua lou tikeri faato'a liliu lelei e a'oa'o le aganuu, amata nei!

O lea ua uma ona tapena tulaga o mataupu i le aganuu ma le gagana (benchmarks). O loo iloilo nei e se komiti faapitoa. O lea foi ua galue lou tou Faatonu, Dr. Poumele e faatulaga se vaega fou i totonu o le Matagaluega o A'oga, e mafai ai ona opogi ma fusia faatasi nei taumafaiga uma tau le a'oa'oina o le aganuu ma le gagana. O la outou vaega lena e lagolagoina outou i le lumana'i.

Le atunuu, o isi na o laasaga ua faia e aga'i atu i le puipui o aganuu.

Avea foi lenei ma avanoa ou te faafetai atu ai i la tatou komiti o sikolasipi, lau Susuga i le Faife'au, Ned Ripley, ma le komiti atoa, ina ua ua tou tali lelei mai la'u taumafaiga e siitia le tulaga o tagata faigaluega o le Malo. Malo tautua.

Ia faamanuia le Atua i le Malo o Samoa. Faamanuia foi i le Malo o Amerika Samoa. Soifua.



10TH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS

July 20th – August 2nd

PLEASE KEEP AMERICAN SAMOA CLEAN!

FA'AMAMA AMERIKA SAMOA!

DBAS seeking RFPs for financial and single audit services

The Development Bank of American Samoa, under Title 28, Chapter 1 of the American Samoa Code Annotated, is seeking Request for Proposals (RFP) for financial audits and the related single audits for a period of three years, beginning with the audit of financial statements for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2010. (Fiscal and calendar years are coincident at DBAS).

The RFP describes the specifications for the services to be provided in sufficient detail to permit competition and allow offerors to properly respond.

Proposals must be received by DBAS no later than 2 p.m. local time on July 25, and they may be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:

Development Bank of American Samoa

P.O. Box 9

Attention: Mrs. Iutita Galea'i, Operations Manager

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

They may also be e-mailed to dbasinfo@dbas.org as an attachment in Word Format with a confirming e-mail required to confirm receipt; or faxed to DBAS at 633-1163 with a confirming fax to confirm receipt; with the signed original to follow by first class airmail.

DBAS is inviting submission of proposals to include pricing and other details as indicated in the specifications. Attachments will be provided as an aid in presenting a comprehensive proposal consistent with DBAS requirements.

A contractor who best meets the needs of DBAS will be selected and the factors for selection will include but not limited to understanding the requirements of the financial and single audits; verifiable ability to perform well; good reputation; flexibility, including the ability to respond quickly to the needs of a small client in a remote location and throughout the year; and reasonability of costs.

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from the DBAS management team and board members. The committee may request interviews with potential contractors after reviewing the proposals before the final selection is made.

Requests for information regarding the RFP and/or facilities may be addressed to:

Mrs. Jilla Piroozmandi, CFO

Development Bank of American Samoa

P.O. Box 9

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799